

Madam Speaker, I am a strong supporter of H.R. 2194, the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanction Act. I believe Iran remains the number one national security concern for the international community. Iran's continued pursuit of nuclear capabilities is extremely concerning and remains a serious threat to the United States of America and the entire world. Iran's refusal to respond to the United States' diplomatic engagement is especially disconcerting. I'd like to thank Chairman Berman for his willingness to add language to this legislation at my request, highlighting Iran's unwillingness to cooperate with the international community and the government's insistence on rejecting the United States' efforts at engagement.

When Iran's secret nuclear facility was revealed in September, my colleagues and I demanded that the Government of Iran immediately disclose the existence of any additional nuclear-related facilities, and provide open-access to its Qom enrichment facility. The Obama Administration set a deadline for Iran to open the facility for inspection. However, Iran did not meet this deadline. Iran was also required to ship its low-enriched uranium stockpile to Russia and France for conversion. Yet again, Iran refused to accept this deal. Iran has systematically refused to live up to any of its promises of transparency and cooperation with the international community. Instead, Iran decided to act against our efforts at engagement by announcing that it would enrich its own uranium to 20 percent, and that it would build 10 new enrichment plants for purportedly civilian purposes.

These actions are unacceptable and the U.S. House of Representatives must ensure that our country is not investing in companies and institutions that enhance Iran's petroleum resources, which may be used to fund their nuclear ambitions and terrorist groups. However, I also believe the international community must come together to help neutralize the threat Iran poses to the rest of the world. All states must take responsibility for maintaining peace and security in the region through multi-lateral sanctions and efforts to force Iran to denuclearize. In order to be successful, I believe these efforts must be international in scope.

The passage of H.R. 2194 is an important step towards continuing to show Iran that we will not stand by idly while they continue to threaten the peace and security of the rest of the world. I regret that I am unavoidably detained in California. However, as a cosponsor and strong supporter of H.R. 2194, I would have voted "aye" on this critical legislation.